

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for providing a secure operating environment for a network accessible system comprising:

accessing a delay timer operably coupled to a
5 communication module, the delay timer including a delay time interval;

comparing the delay time interval to an activity associated with the system communicating with the network; and

10 isolating the communication module from the network based on the comparison.

2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising disabling the communication module if the communication
15 module remains idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval.

3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the disabling includes reducing a power state associated with the
20 communication module.

4. The method of Claim 3, further comprising:
detecting a user initiated request to access the network;

25 altering the power state of the communication module;

initializing the communication module to communicate with the network; and

initializing the delay timer.

5 5. The method of Claim 2, wherein the disabling further comprises removing power supplied to the communication module.

5 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the isolating further comprises disconnecting a communication port associated with the communication module.

10 7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising initializing the delay timer in response to the system initiating communication with the network.

15 8. The method of Claim 1, further comprising adjusting the delay time interval using a software interface associated with the delay timer.

 9. The method of Claim 1, further comprising adjusting the delay time interval using a hardware interface associated with the delay timer.

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 10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
 locating a reference within a memory associated with the delay timer, the reference operably associated with enabling the communication module; and
25 removing the reference in response to the communication module being idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval.

11. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
accessing a network location;

disabling the communication module upon the
communication module being idle for a time period greater
5 than the delay time interval; and

enabling the communication module upon determining a
request to access the network location.

12. The method of Claim 11, further comprising:
10 storing a network reference operable to identify the
network location;

removing a communication module reference from a
memory stack associated with the communication module,
the communication module reference associated with
15 enabling the communication module;

disabling the communication module upon the
communication module remaining idle for a time period
greater than the delay time interval; and

copying the communication module reference to the
20 memory stack upon detecting a request by the system to
access the network location.

13. The method of Claim 12, further comprising:
enabling the communication module; and
25 accessing the network location using the network
reference.

14. The method of Claim 12, further comprising
initializing the delay timer upon detecting a user
30 initiated request to access the network.

15. A system operable to communicate information via a network comprising:

means for accessing a delay timer operably coupled to a communication module, the delay timer including a
5 delay time interval;

means for comparing the delay time interval to an activity associated with the system communicating with the network; and

means for isolating the communication module from
10 the network based on the comparison.

16. The system of Claim 15, further comprising means for disabling the communication module if the communication module remains idle for a time period
15 greater than the delay time interval.

17. The system of Claim 16, further comprising means for reducing a power state associated with the communication module.

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18. The system of Claim 17, further comprising:

means for detecting a user initiated request to access the network;

means for altering the power state of the
25 communication module;

means for initializing the communication module to communicate with the network; and

means for resetting the delay timer.

19. A medium comprising encoded logic for providing a secure operating environment operable to:

access a delay timer operably coupled to a communication module, the delay timer including a delay
5 time interval;

compare the delay time interval to activity operably associated with a system communicating with a network;
and

isolate the communication module from the network
10 based on the comparison.

20. The medium of Claim 19, further comprising logic operable to:

locate a reference within a memory associated with
15 the delay timer, the reference operably associated with enabling the communication module; and

remove the reference in response to the communication module being idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval.

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21. The medium of Claim 19, further comprising logic operable to:

access a network location;

disable the communication module upon the
25 communication module being idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval; and

enable the communication module upon determining a request to access the network location.

22. The medium of Claim 21, further comprising logic operable to:

store a network reference operable to identify the network location;

5 remove a communication module reference from a memory stack associated with the communication module, the communication module reference associated with enabling the communication module;

10 disable the communication module upon the communication module remaining idle for a time period greater than the delay time interval; and

copy the communication module reference to the memory stack upon detecting a request by the system to access the network location.

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23. The medium of Claim 22, further comprising logic operable to:

enable the communication module; and

20 access the network location using the network reference.

24. A device operable to provide a secure operating environment for accessing a network comprising:

a communication module operable to communicate information via the network;

5 a delay timer operably coupled to the communication module; and

the delay timer including a delay time interval operable to enable communication between the communication module and the network.

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25. The device of Claim 24, further comprising:

a data bus coupled to the communication module and a processor; and

15 the data bus operable to communicate information based on the delay time interval.

26. The device of Claim 24, further comprising a memory operable to store the delay time interval.

20 27. The device of Claim 24, further comprising a communication module reference operable to be stored within the memory.

25 28. The device of Claim 24, further comprising the delay time interval programmed via an interface associated with the delay timer.

30 29. The device of Claim 28, further comprising the delay time interval programmed using a delay time interval reference and a communication module reference.

30. The device of Claim 24, further comprising a power state operably associated with the delay timer and the power state operable to provide power to the communication module.

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31. The device of Claim 24, further comprising:

a communication port communicatively coupling the communication module and the network; and

10 the communication port operable based on the delay time interval.